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BILLINGE--AND--WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

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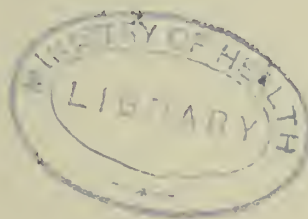
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1952.



J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR

THE YEAR 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-first Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your district in 1952.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	-	4,906
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1952	-	5,898
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952, according to the rate book	-	1,718
Rateable Value	-	£25,336
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	£101

The social condition and general health of the community continued to be well preserved throughout the year. There was no fresh industrial development and coal mining, both deep and opencast, stone quarrying, agriculture and brick and terra cotta manufacture remained the principal local occupations. Outside the district glass factories, lock and hinge works and cotton mills absorbed a fraction especially of the female population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	78	35	43
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 44

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district	-	crude	13.6
		adjusted	15.6

Other live birth statistics, introduced for the purpose of comparison.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live births in district during 1951.	81	40	41

Live birth rate for 1951. 15.8

Live birth rate for England and Wales in 1952. 15.3

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still Births.			
Legitimate.	2	2	-
Illegitimate.	2	2	-

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births.. 24

Rate per 1,000 (Live and still) births in England and Wales. 22.6

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths.	73	42	31

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. crude 12.4
(adjusted) 12.6

Death rate for district in 1951. 12.7

Death rate for England and Wales in 1952. 11.3

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births</u>
Deaths from Puerperal causes.		

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis. Nil. Nil.

Other maternal causes. Nil. Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Death of infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate.	6	4	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

All infants per 1,000 live births. 75

Number of deaths per 1,000 live births in district in 1951. 12

Number of infantile deaths per 1,000 live births in England and Wales in 1952. 27.6

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age). Nil.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate.	2	2	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births. 25

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Pathological Specimens - submitted to Wigan Infirmary.

Bacteriological Examinations carried out at Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Two.

Chemical Analysis carried out at the Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Two.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

(1) For all general purposes ambulances and cars are still provided from the Wigan Fire Brigade and Ambulance Station (Telephone Wigan 6202). The service has been prompt and efficient during the year.

(2) For infectious cases the ambulance attached to the hospital concerned is used.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurse continued to render excellent service during the year under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer of Health. Tribute must here be paid to her unremitting zeal and her constant co-operation with the Medical Practitioners, by whom her work is especially appreciated.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres. No change.

(e) Hospitals.

The all embracing provisions of the National Health Scheme continued to extend the scope of hospitals available to local patients. Nevertheless, the majority receive their treatment, whether as in-patients or out-patients, at one of the hospitals in the Wigan and Leigh Group. A minority go to the St. Helens hospitals. Special cases have treatment in Manchester or Liverpool hospitals. Infectious cases requiring hospital isolation are usually transported to Whelley.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water.

The water supply of the district remained a predominant consideration and anxiety in the Council affairs despite the guaranteed supply of 150,000 gallons daily from Liverpool, augmented by a minimum of 10,000 gallons from Wigan. The increasing consumption is already exceeding this total as the following table shows:-

Water (Cont'd.)

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Daily Consumption.</u>
1940.	125,700 gallons.
1941.	127,900 gallons.
1943.	127,617 gallons.
1944.	136,000 gallons.
1945.	147,375 gallons.
1946.	145,876 gallons.
1948.	145,250 gallons.
1949.	145,433 gallons.
1950.	163,175 gallons.
1951.	164,600 gallons.
1952.	167,502 gallons.

Furthermore, the reserves within the district are now negligible. The Cob Moor supply alone remains as a valuable entity in case of a temporary suspension of the main supply. That we are not an isolated instance of this tendency to excess of demand over supply does not render the prospect of procuring liberal treatment from a common supplier any more hopeful. But the approach must soon be made though every economy be practised.

The various contributions to the total supply in the year is represented thus:-

Liverpool Corporation.	53,233,000 galls.
Wigan Corporation.	7,570,000 galls.
Cob Moor.	444,000 galls.
St. George's Tunnel.	59,000 galls.

Total.	61,306,000 galls.
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Average daily consumption of district.	167,502 galls.
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Individual average daily consumption.	28.4 galls.
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The water was examined both bacteriologically and chemically during the year and the results are as follows:-

(1) Two samples were taken for analytical examination.

(a) Liverpool Supply.

The sample was clear, very faintly yellow and odourless. It contained only a minute trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris, hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter.

Observations:- These results are normal for the Rivington supply.

(b) Cob Moor Supply.

The sample was clear, very faintly yellow and odourless. It contained a heavy trace of suspended matter which consisted mainly of hydrated oxide of iron and iron organisms with some particles of siliceous matter.

Observations:- The results of analysis indicate that the water is organically pure and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Water (Cont'd.)

(2) Two samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

(a) Cob Moor Supply.

Class I, i.e. Highly satisfactory.

(b) Liverpool Supply.

Class I, i.e. Highly satisfactory.

In a total of 1,720 houses in the district, only 9 are unsupplied from the mains and 7 of these are in that isolated community previously referred to comprising 2 farms, 4 houses and 1 colliery. Representations have been recently entertained anew as to the possibility of extending the supply to this locality. Hitherto, attempts to compose an agreement between the parties when the costs were considerably lighter failed. As a consequence, the Council has not been so favourably disposed to the project of late, but at a recent meeting of all concerned, a proposition was achieved which proved mutually acceptable and a satisfactory outcome is now to be expected.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

It must be acknowledged that little material progress was made towards the fundamental solution of the sewage disposal problems at either end of the district. We discussed the whole aspect of the problem in informal consultation with the Ministry of Health's representative engineer, considering the suggestion in the Southern area of dispensing with the idea of a local filtration plant in favour of combining with the St. Helens sewerage system which is now in accessible proximity by reason of the new housing development at Carr Mill. For months we have been awaiting the St. Helens report on the feasibility, acceptability and terms for consideration.

No decision has yet been possible as to the Northern Sewage Field, we can only claim to have negotiated for the necessary land. Meanwhile, complaints assail us increasingly of fouling of streams, disturbance of drainage of fields from silting, impoverishment of land and waterlogging, and claims for compensation are an unpleasant inevitable corollary.

We must get beyond the blue print stage in both localities with the utmost expedition to reduce the ultimate cost. In one respect, however, we can feel some satisfaction. The terminal sewer, previously precariously crossing the Clay Quarry to the Northern Sewage Field on a series of wooden supports, has been firmly established on a solid foundation of soil by a bulldozer. The danger of a fracture and the consequent predicament has been thus finally averted.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

These are kept under the close surveillance of the County Rivers Board. The potential danger from sewage contamination is every increasing. No complaint was made in the year under review. Other than this, there is no risk of pollution.

(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

A grant of £7 or half the cost, whichever is the less, is made towards the conversion to a W.C. Twenty-one privy middens were converted during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation (Cont'd.)

The progress towards the complete elimination of privy middens from the district is still embarrassed by the shortage of water and the inadequacy of the sewage disposal facilities. Nevertheless, the worst cases are systematically dealt with.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1952.

No. of privy middens.	69.
No. of closets attached to these middens.	331.
No. of pail closets.	4.
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens).	2.
No. of movable ashbins.	1,088.
No. of houses on water carriage system.	1,243.
No. of fresh water closets.	1,559.
No. of waste water closets.	Nil.

(5) Public Cleansing.

Street scavenging and the weekly removal of house refuse was carried out by the Local Authority as previously. Privy middens are also emptied regularly. Tipping continued on selected and controlled sites, there being no destructor in the district. Paper is collected separately for salvage.

(6) Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meaning of the Acts, and reports to the County Council.

(7) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

(Vide Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

(8) Smoke Abatement.

There are 5 factory and works chimneys in the district and 10 observations were made during the year. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes in the hour. No infringement was observed in the year.

(9) Swimming Baths and Pools.

None - Public or private in this district.

(10) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The routine disinfection of the household goods of those transferring to new Council Houses is not a practice in this district. The Council's resolution will only permit disinfection where the need is patent. No such instance arose in the year. The method employed, where necessary, is spraying with insecticide and fumigation with sulphur.

(11) Schools.

The sanitary condition of the two Schools in the district remained satisfactory. The general health of the children was well preserved and the attendance was not appreciably reduced by sickness. The installation of new kitchen facilities at Birchley R.C. School is an improvement warranting favourable comment in this section.

(12) Offensive Trades.

There are none in the district.

(13) Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the district.

(14) Canal Boats.

There are none in the district.

SECTION D.

Housing.

In the extending development of the Claremont Estate, 13 houses can only be claimed as completed in the year, but accelerated progress has since been made and the terrace building, now in vogue, with the emphasis on the smaller two bedroomed type at a corresponding reduced rental, should be popular.

Overcrowding still remains a formidable problem despite the concentrated attention to this factor in the allocation of Council houses. By and large, the figures are only slightly better than those of the previous year for, whereas 12 cases of overcrowding were relieved, 9 new cases were reported. Within the next decade, however, I am convinced that the question will resolve itself to a large extent, for in an ageing general population, tenancy vacancies from death will be a contributing factor of increasing frequency and importance. Indeed, there will be a dangerous possibility of overbuilding and even empty houses if due regard is not also paid to restricting ascending rentals. Albeit, 52 applications from lodgers still remain on the file at the time of writing, but many of these have either already made other provision invariably neglecting to cancel the application, or will have relieved themselves by the time they qualify for consideration. I estimate that not more than half this number will prove valid. Of course there is the overcrowding discovered in 24 of the 52 applications from householders. The difficulty in many of these cases is that they will be equally overcrowded in the new houses. I suppose the condition of the dwelling is the only consideration we could legitimately entertain in such circumstances. So it is that slum clearance will assume increasing importance as time proceeds.

The recent decision to erect two agricultural dwellings in the Kings Moss district is a notable addition to the Council building programme for the coming months.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(i)	By the Local Authority	-	13.
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	-	Nil.
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	-	3.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 63. |
| | (b) | Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose. | 159. |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. | Nil. |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | Nil. |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 1. |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 62. |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	49.
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Action under statutory powers during the year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|------|--|------|
| (1) | | Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| | (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs. | Nil. |
| | (b) | Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:- | |
| | (i) | By Owners. | Nil. |
| | (ii) | By local authority in default of Owners. | Nil. |
| (2) | | Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 63. |
| | (b) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| | (i) | By Owners. | 57. |
| | (ii) | By local authority in default of Owners. | Nil. |
| (3) | | Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| | (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | 1. |
| | (b) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | Nil. |

Action under statutory powers during the year (Cont'd.)

- (4) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.
- (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

- (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 51.
 (b) Number of families dwelling therein. 84.
 (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. 308.
- (2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 9.
- (3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 12.
 (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 85.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were 54 Cowkeepers (including dairy farmers) and 14 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register. Dealers' licences were issued in respect of 6 Suppliers of Tuberculin Tested milk, 6 Suppliers of Accredited milk and 6 Retail Distributors of Pasteurised and Sterilised milk.

The Lancashire County Council undertake the duties of sampling in the area.

(b) Meat and other foods.

There is no slaughter house within the district. All shops, stalls and vehicles where food is prepared were inspected but no cause for complaint was found, and no infectious disease was reported in connection with persons dealing with such food. The inspection of locally slaughtered animals is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector who includes in his report an account of the work.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases:-

Measles prevailed epidemically in May and June throughout Billinge Chapel End originating from the Greenfield Home whence 26 cases were notified. A subsidiary wave supervened there in December accounting for a further 6 notifications.

Other infectious diseases were of infrequent occurrence and sporadic incidence. The puerperal pyrexia cases were notified from Billinge Hospital.

Diphtheria immunisation proceeded at an excellent pace throughout the year mainly to the credit of the Assistant County Medical Officers through the Clinic Services. A total of 69 pre-school children and 56 school children were recorded as having received the primary treatment and a further 119 were given a secondary reinforcing injection.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases (Cont'd.)

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1952.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation of the illness.

There was no outbreak of food poisoning in the district in 1952.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1952 (AFTER CORRECTIONS.)

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years.											Total Cases Removed to Hospi- tal.	Deaths in Hos- pital of persons belong- ing to the District
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 & over.	Age Unknown.			
Scarlet Fever.	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella).	80	1	14	30	34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal.)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	91	1	16	32	34	2	-	3	2	1	-	1	-	-

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The method employed with regard to premises was fumigation with formaldehyde gas. Four houses were so treated. Fomites are disinfested in the autoclave by steam.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). The notification of tuberculosis in the area is efficient, there being no instance of a non-notified tuberculosis death.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
	1		2		2		-	

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops.

There was no offence under the Factory Act, 1937 during the year under review. The Sanitary Inspector, working in liaison with H.M. Inspector of Factories, maintained effective supervision of local factories and workshops from the Public Health aspect.

The following is a list of the factories and workshops operating in the district in 1952

Collieries	-	4.
Opencast Mining Plant	-	3.
Stone Quarries	-	2.
Boot and Clog Repairing	-	2.
Brickworks	-	2.
Joinery	-	5.
Government Radar Station	-	1.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

1. Improvement of Sewage Disposal methods.
2. Conversion of Privy Middens.
3. Increased Water Supply.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my seventh Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector of your district.

Water Supply.

Throughout the year a wholesome supply of water was supplied to the inhabitants. For the first time since the War, supplies had not to be curtailed. However, it is obvious that our total bulk minimum supply will be insufficient in the near future to meet the normal demand. Consumption per head continues to rise and, with the increasing number of houses, it will be necessary to approach Liverpool Corporation for a further supply.

A total of 1,711 houses (population 6,100), are now supplied with water, as compared with 1,693 houses (population 6,073), in 1951. Nine houses still remain unconnected to the Council's supply, a population of 25 being involved.

A noticeable improvement in the maintenance of an uninterrupted supply has been appreciated by the inhabitants of Pemberton Road. This, of course, being due to the curtailing of Opencast Mining operations in that area.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The main defects with regard to the district still remain the large number of privy middens and ashpits. Twenty-one privy middens were abolished during the year bringing the total number of houses in the district on the water carriage system to 1,243. The total number of water closets in the district is 1,559. This number is accounted for by some houses having two conveniences. Sixty-nine privy middens now remain in the district and 331 closets are attached to these middens. So far, the middens have been converted on a voluntary basis, the Council making a grant of £7 per house towards the cost of conversion. It remains to be seen whether we can continue to get these privy middens converted voluntarily or whether it will be necessary for us to work under Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sewage Disposal.

For the purpose of sewage disposal, the area is divided into two areas, the Chapel End and the Higher End. Both areas are treated by a crude system of broad irrigation and both have been found to be far from satisfactory. The Council is now pursuing vigorously Sewage Disposal Works for each area. At the Higher End, due to the death of the Sewage Attendant and due to the increased flow, we are now faced with the urgent problem of having Works erected at the earliest opportunity. Samples taken from both Works show how grossly polluting the effluent is.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse was collected regularly during the year, a weekly collection being maintained. The average weight per house per week was 62 lbs., as compared with an average of 57 lbs. per house per week for 1951. Refuse was still disposed of at the Orrell Brick and Tile Works in the Higher End. Adequate tipping accommodation is still available. The tip at the Chapel End is now obsolete and all refuse is tipped at the Orrell Brick and Tile Works.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

The shops, 30 in number, were inspected regularly during the year and found to be highly satisfactory.

The number of pigs slaughtered during the year was 104, 69 of which were inspected.

A surprising feature of the year was the great amount of food stuffs, particularly foreign tinned stuff, which had to be condemned. Thirty inspections were made at shops for the purpose of inspecting food thought to be unfit for human consumption, and it is interesting to note that, in a small area such as this, the following were condemned:-

- 61 tins Luncheon Meat (12 oz. tins.)
- 3 tins Plums (2 lb. tins.)
- 6 tins Beetroot (1 lb. tins.)
- 19 tins Soup (12 oz. tins.)
- 24 tins Dwarf Beans (12 oz. tins.)
- 7 tins Sardines (4 oz. tins.)
- 7 tins Oranges (1 lb. 12 oz. tins.)
- 5 tins Strawberries (1 lb. tins.)
- 16 tins Grapes (1 lb. 12 oz. tins.)
- 4 tins Full Cream Milk.
- 14 tins Condensed Milk.
- 2 tins Pears (1 lb. 12 oz. tins.)
- 17 tins Steak.
- 24 packets Baking Powder (2 oz. pkts.)

It was noticeable that, in most cases, the defects found in the tinned foods were due to bad canning and it was usually foreign produce.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.